**Increasing Poverty in the Country**

†4198. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poverty is still on increase in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating to take some steps to check this;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. Planning Commission in their latest estimates (1999-2000) have, in fact, indicated a decrease of 9.9% in the poverty ratio in the country as compared to that of 1993-94.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of the above.

**Rehabilitation of Slun Dwellers in Metropolitan Cities;**

4199. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people living in slums in metropolitan cities;

(b) the number of slum dwellers to whom Government plan to rehabilitate by providing houses to them during the year 2002-2003;

(c) whether Government have any plans to offer employment to the youths and women of slums, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any plan for skill development and skill upgradation of slum youths; and

(e) if so, the details of the training and budgetary assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) (a) Slum development being a State subject, State Governments survey and take stock of slums in their respective State. However, Town and Country Planning Organization (TCPO) conducted a study on slums in 1995-96 and brought out a report title "A Compendium on Indian Slums-1996". According to this report, the slum population of 23 metro cities for 2001 is estimated as 254.811 lakhs.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi